PUBLIC OPINION

IN YEMEN
ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Department of Public Information commissioned a public opinion poll in Yemen to assess the awareness, knowledge and image of the United Nations. The poll was conducted during February and March 1992.

THE RESULTS IN BRIEF

- Four out of ten Yemen citizens say the UN is doing a good job. Only a minority of 12 per cent rate its performance poor.

- AIDS, international peace and security, crime prevention and drug abuse are the three UN issues of greatest interest to the citizens of Yemen.

- More than half of the respondents can name a United Nations agency, body or institution.

UN PERFORMANCE RATING

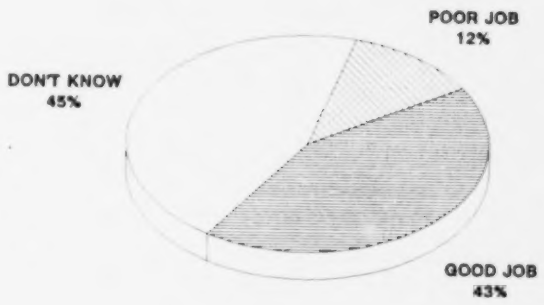


FIGURE 1

RATING UN PERFORMANCE

Forty-three per cent of the people of Yemen positively assess the work of the United Nations; 12 per cent rate its performance as poor. The other respondents either are unaware of the UN or choose to abstain from evaluating the work of the Organization.

Those who are between 15 and 34 years old are more likely to say the United Nations is doing a good job. Most respondents who give the UN a positive rating are university-trained, and/or managers/professionals. Also, a majority of students give the UN a good job performance rating.

INTEREST IN UNITED NATIONS ISSUES

	VERY INTERESTED %	SOMEWHAT INTERESTED %	NOT INTERESTED %
AIDS	63	19	18
INT'L PEACE AND SECURITY	56	16	28
CRIME PREVENTION	49	32	19
DRUG ABUSE	48	32	21
THE WORK OF THE UN IN GENERAL	44	35	22
REFUGEES & DISASTER RELIEF	41	36	23
NEW WORLD INFORMATION ORDER	40	21	39
CHILDREN'S ISSUES	40	28	32
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	36	32	33
WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS	35	29	36
IMPROVING HOUSING CONDITIONS	34	30	36
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT	32	38	30
DECOLONIZATION	31	41	28
HUMAN RIGHTS	30	41	29
INTERNATIONAL LAW & TREATIES	28	43	29
EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN	28	38	35
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION	28	39	33
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	27	33	40
DISARMAMENT	27	43	30
INT'L DEBT CRISIS	27	31	42
POPULATION ISSUES	25	35	40
APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA	16	44	39
AFRICAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY	16	46	38

FIGURE 2

AWARENESS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

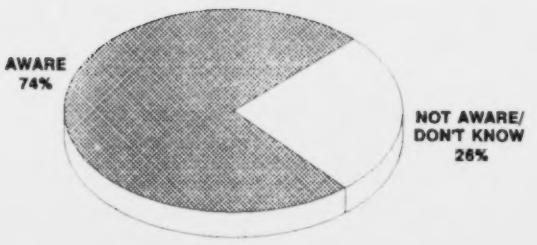


FIGURE 3

REASONS FOR UN PERFORMANCE

Asked to give reasons why they think the UN is doing a good job, Yemeni cite the assistance the United Nations gives to refugees and others who are in need, as well as its efforts in helping developing countries. In addition, they mention activities related to children's issues, the role of UN-peacekeepers, and the Organization's efforts in maintaining peace and international security.

Those who speak critically of the UN's work cite what they call a favorable position of the UN towards Israel and against Arab nations. Other criticisms include: the UN is too bureaucratic and fails to follow through with its resolutions; it is influenced by the United States, Israel and European countries; and the UN's failure in sufficiently respecting the legitimate rights of Palestinian people.

INTEREST IN UN ISSUES

Nearly two thirds of the respondents would like more information about the United Nations work in fighting the spread of AIDS. International peace and security, crime prevention, drug abuse, and the work of the UN in general are also of interest to the people of Yemen. Areas of lesser interest to respondents are the international debt crisis, population issues, the elimination of apartheid and African economic recovery.

There is little difference in the degree to which male and female respondents express interest in most UN issues; however, women show a greater interest than men on the question of the advancement of women in society.

AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE UN

Almost three fourths of Yemen's population say they have heard of the United Nations. At all educational levels, awareness of the UN is more than 50 per cent. Awareness, however, does vary based upon education. Those with higher levels of education are more likely than those

with lower levels of education to know of the UN. Awareness of the UN is highest among students (97 per cent), followed by those in managerial (93 per cent) and other professional positions (89 per cent).

The ability to name an agency, body or institution is high, 58 per cent. The most frequently mentioned agency is UNICEF (36 per cent). UNRWA and UNESCO are mentioned by the respondents 32 per cent and nine per cent respectively. Education is the only social strata where a difference is noted in ability to name UN agencies, bodies and institutions. Those who have acquired secondary and university training name more agencies than those who have not.

ABILITY TO NAME A UN INSTITUTION

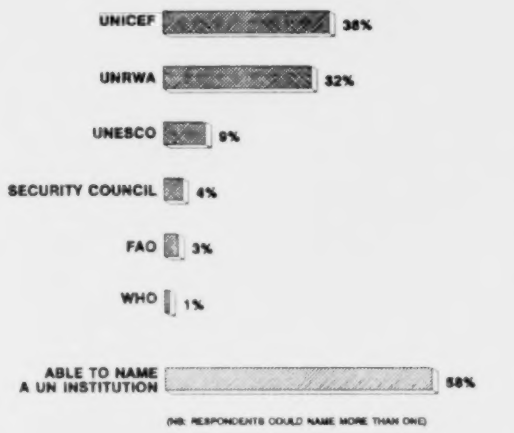


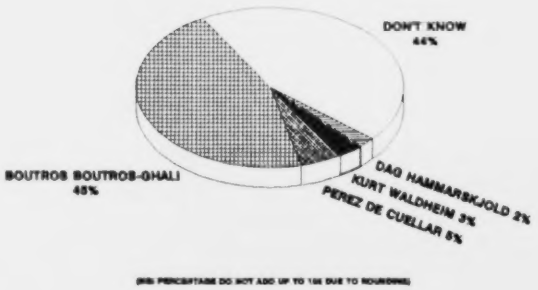
FIGURE 4

IDENTIFICATION OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Forty-five per cent of the respondents identified from a list of six names, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali as the current Secretary-General.

In terms of socio-economic indicators, age and education played a role in determining who can name the Secretary-General. Those between 25 and 44 years old choose his name more often

IDENTIFYING THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL



(NB: PERCENTAGE DO NOT ADD UP TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING)

FIGURE 5

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON THE UN

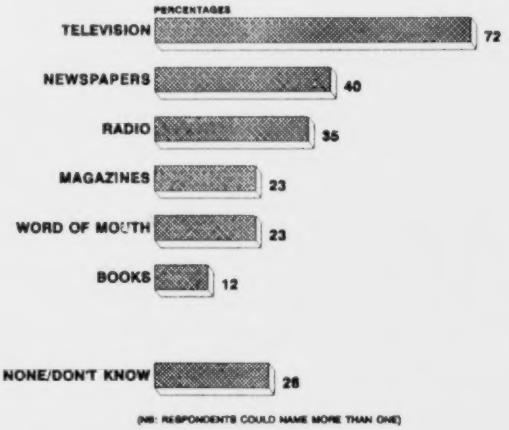


FIGURE 6

TEACHING ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS

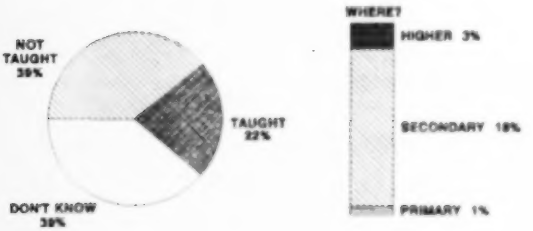


FIGURE 7

than the younger (15-24 years) and the older people (45 and over). The Secretary-General is identified by respondents with a university education (81%) more often than those without a formal education (45%).

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

According to seven out of ten respondents, television is the main source of information about the United Nations. Other sources from which respondents obtain information about the UN include: newspapers (40 per cent), radio (35 per cent), word of mouth (23 per cent) and magazines (23 per cent).

Teaching about the United Nations in school is not very extensive. Of the 22 per cent who recall being taught about the UN, 18 per cent mention being taught in secondary school.

HOW THE POLL WAS DONE

The poll was conducted in Yemen by the Market Research Organization (MRO) based in Amman, Jordan. A representative sample of 1005 adult men and women were interviewed. The interviews were carried out face-to-face in the respondents' homes during February and March 1992. The margin of sampling error is estimated at ± 3 per cent.

The Programme Evaluation and Communications Research Unit of the United Nations Department of Public Information undertakes public opinion polls to "analyse trends of public opinion throughout the world about the activities of the United Nations and the extent to which an informed understanding of the work of the United Nations is being secured". General Assembly resolution 13(1), paragraph 13, Annex 1 of 14 February 1946.

CONCLUSION

Most Yemeni say they are aware of the United Nations and more than half can name agencies, bodies and institutions. Of those who evaluated the Organization, most give it a positive assessment. AIDS is the number one UN issue of interest to the respondents.

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